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Senate

(Legislative day of Tuesday, May 17, 2022)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable TINA SMITH, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who stretched the horizon across the ocean, You know we have no power in ourselves. Without You, we cannot prevail.

Remind us of the wisdom of Psalms 127:1, which states:

Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted. Unless the Lord protects a city, guarding it with sentries will do no good.

Today, work through our lawmakers to build an edifice for freedom that will endure. Lord, inspire them to enact laws that will please You. Use our Senators to produce a harvest of righteousness that exalts our Nation. And, Lord, bless Ukraine.

We pray in Your awesome Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TINA SMITH, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. SMITH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ADDITIONAL UKRAINE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 7691, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7691) making emergency supplemental appropriations for assistance for the situation in Ukraine for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Schumer amendment No. 5035, to add an effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 5036 (to amendment No. 5035), to modify the effective date.

Schumer motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, Schumer amendment No. 5037, to add an effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 5038 (to the instructions) amendment No. 5037), to modify the effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 5039 (to amendment No. 5038), to modify the effective date.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

H.R. 7691

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, today the Senate will approve more le-

thal assistance for Ukraine, and it is going to be a big bipartisan landslide.

As a matter of moral principle, the United States is proud to support a sovereign democracy's self-defense. Innocent Ukrainians have been subjected to wanton cruelty. But aid for Ukraine goes far beyond charity. The future of America's security and core strategic interests will be shaped by the outcome of this fight.

Anyone concerned about the cost of supporting a Ukrainian victory should consider the much larger costs should Ukraine lose. In Europe, close allies and trading relationships would suddenly be hundreds of miles closer to the territory of an aggressive, emboldened autocrat. Our own security requirements on the continent would grow substantially.

And adversaries on the other side of the world would be tempted to follow Russia's lead. Communist China has already been stepping up its saber-rattling toward the free people of Taiwan: more tough talk, more airspace incursions, more evidence of their utter disregard for the rule of law.

Our friends in the Pacific see this connection very clearly. As Japan's Prime Minister put it, "We must show that there are consequences"—consequences—"to violence by Russia. Ukraine may be East Asia tomorrow."

Many of us are convinced that China is our most significant strategic challenge. Successful, long-term competition with the PRC will require having European partners firmly on our side. We will sorely need the trust and the relationships that abandoning Ukraine would exhaust. Turning our backs on Ukraine would harm our goals in Asia, not advance them.

So I will be a proud vote for America's national interest and vote to approve this badly needed assistance today. I encourage every Senator on

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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